



July 21, 2003

A combined contribution with
-Cooperative Extension Service
-USDA Farm Service Agency
-The Oklahoma Mesonet

Scorching Heat Stresses Row Crops and Pastures

July 20 - Scorching dry, hot temperatures continued to take a toll on many of Oklahoma's row crops and pastures. Temperatures during the week were extremely hot with most areas exceeding the century mark for several days. Five of nine districts averaged a maximum temperature of triple digits or greater during the week with the North Central district high averaging 103 degrees. Rainfall remained virtually nonexistent for the week. Many areas have gone several weeks without significant moisture. Some producers reported that dryland crops and pastures were beginning to burn up. Soil moisture supplies continued to decline from the extreme hot conditions. Seventy-five percent of the topsoil moisture was rated as very short to short. Farmers had 6.8 days suitable for fieldwork during the week.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	23	52	24	1
Last Week	12	43	44	1
Last Year	15	42	43	0

SUBSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	12	44	43	1
Last Week	12	32	54	2
Last Year	24	32	44	0

Small Grains: Wheat stubble was plowed at least once on 86 percent of the State's acreage, 7 percentage points ahead of the normal pace. At week's end, 2 percent of wheat ground had been prepared for seeding. Oat harvest was nearly completed with 98 percent combined. Seventy-five percent of the fields had been plowed.

Row Crops: The extreme hot temperatures and lack of rainfall continued to affect row crops. Irrigation remained active where water supplies allowed as crops continued to endure heat stress. Sixty percent of the corn was silking while 30 percent of the corn entered the dough stage of development. Seven percent of the corn reached maturity. Sorghum emergence advanced 2 percentage points to 97 percent. At week's end, sorghum headed gained 6 percentage points to 14 percent complete and 3 percent had begun to change color. Soybeans reached 98 percent emergence, ahead of the normal pace. Twenty-six percent of the soybeans were blooming and 14 percent were setting pods. Peanut pegging and setting pods advanced during the week to 94 and 31 percent, respectively. The majority of the cotton crop remained in fair to good condition, with 85 percent of the acreage squaring and 18 percent setting bolls. Crop insect activities were light to moderate across the State.

ROW CROPS CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending July 20, 2003

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	0	1	13	36	50
Sorghum	0	2	39	56	3
Soybeans	0	2	22	69	7
Peanuts	0	5	26	56	13
Cotton	1	15	36	41	7

Hay: Both alfalfa and other hay were rated in mostly fair to good condition. The third cutting of alfalfa advanced to 76 percent complete. Other hay first and second cuttings were 91 and 28 percent complete, respectively.

HAY CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending July 20, 2003

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Alfalfa	1	7	28	57	7
Other Hay	1	7	33	53	6

Miscellaneous Crops: Watermelons were rated in mostly fair to good condition. Harvest was 46 percent complete and well ahead of the normal pace.

Pasture: Pasture and range conditions continued to decline but were still rated as mostly fair to good. Many pastures continued to show signs of stress. Grasshoppers continued to cause damage to pastures and fields.

Livestock: Livestock conditions remained rated as mostly fair to excellent. Livestock insect activities were rated as mostly light to heavy. Cattle auctions reported an average increase in marketings for the week. The price for feeder steers less than 800 pounds decreased nearly one dollar and fifty cents per cwt. from last week and averaged \$91.31 per cwt. The average price for feeder heifers less than 800 pounds increased twenty-five cents per cwt. from last week and averaged \$86.85 per cwt.

LIVESTOCK CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending July 20, 2003

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Livestock	0	3	21	55	21
Pasture & Range	1	10	36	44	9

Oklahoma Crop-Weather Summary
2800 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

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TIME DATED MATERIAL

OKLAHOMA CROP PROGRESS									
Week Ending July 20, 2003									
Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr. Avg.	Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr. Avg.
Wheat -					Peanuts -				
Plowed	86	78	85	79	Pegging	94	80	86	80
Seedbed Prepared	2	n/a	7	4	Setting Pods	31	17	41	35
Oats -					Cotton -				
Harvested	98	95	97	99	Squaring	85	66	83	74
Plowed	75	64	85	78	Setting Bolls	18	9	34	25
Corn -					Alfalfa -				
Silking	60	42	90	72	3 rd Cutting	76	48	63	55
Dough	30	23	55	27	Other Hay -				
Mature	7	5	14	5	1 st Cutting	91	89	93	90
Sorghum -					2 nd Cutting	28	24	41	26
Emerged	97	95	90	96	Watermelons -				
Headed	14	8	31	21	Setting Fruit	95	86	99	97
Coloring	3	1	5	4	Harvested	46	11	34	34
Soybeans -									
Emerged	98	94	99	93					
Blooming	26	23	57	45					
Setting Pods	14	4	31	18					

WEATHER FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 20, 2003 - Temperatures ranged from 61 degrees at Boise City to 110 degrees at Medford on Monday, July 14th. Precipitation averaged 0.00 in. North Central, Central, Southwest, and South Central districts to 0.04 in. West Central and Southeast districts. Soil temperatures averaged 80 degrees at Mt. Herman and Nowata to 96 degrees at Chickasha on Sunday, July 20th.

MESONET TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA							
Week Ending July 20, 2003							
Districts	Temperature			Precipitation			
	High	Low	Average	This Week	March 1, 2003 to July 20, 2003		
					Total	Departure from Normal	Percent of Normal
	Degrees			Inches			
Panhandle	101	69	86	0.01	9.94	- 1.47	87
West Central	102	72	88	0.04	10.58	- 4.56	70
Southwest	101	72	87	0.00	12.80	- 2.66	83
North Central	103	74	89	0.00	12.43	- 3.79	77
Central	102	74	88	0.00	12.74	- 5.89	68
South Central	99	73	86	0.00	12.11	- 7.08	63
Northeast	96	74	85	0.02	17.48	- 2.32	88
East Central	97	73	85	0.01	14.50	- 6.60	69
Southeast	96	71	83	0.04	14.02	- 8.32	63